



Bayport News

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Message from the Mayor

by Mayor Jon Nowaczek

“Who does not thank for little, will not thank for much.” – Estonian proverb

We are once again in the throes of the great holiday consumer crunch. All the more crunchy this year, with all the bad news of late. The wheels have seemingly come off the economic car, leaving us up on cinder blocks with the weeds growing tall around us. Everyone is feeling the pinch, as credit and jobs evaporate, and housing markets stagnate. Grinches everywhere, delight!

But, wait just one minute! Among all the talking points from the pundits about how bad things are on Main Street today, let’s not lose track of, nor forget, to be thankful for the many things that are right in this world, this nation, and this community. Recently, we exercised our



City Council members from left to right are: Connie Carlson, Dan Johnson, Jon Nowaczek, Torry Kraftson, and out-going member Sharon Ridgway.

Judy Seeberger Elected to City Council



Judy Seeberger, along with incumbent Connie Carlson, ran unopposed in the recent election, to fill two vacant seats on the City Council. Judy will replace Sharon Ridgway, who served on the City Council for the past 16 years, but did not seek re-election.

Judy, along with her husband and two children, have been residents of Bayport for almost 11 years. Judy previously served on the Bayport Planning Commission and looks forward to continuing her contribution to the community by serving on the City Council.

constitutional right of self-determination in an election that made history in so many ways -- a fundamental right that is unfortunately still denied to too many people in the world.

I am thankful to live in a country that is not only founded upon, but still a living example of how such simple, yet powerful principles, can foster incredible human achievement and vitality. I am thankful for all those who have labored and sacrificed over the generations to keep the faith with those principles, so that our generation and those yet to come can be free. So simple, yet so powerful, and too much taken for granted in our consumerist, money-dominated culture today. Maybe a little shakeup in our priorities is long overdue?

I am thankful to live in a town where neighbors know and care about one

another, and who are active in building and maintaining their community institutions. I am thankful that our city’s affairs have been prudently and soundly managed for many years now, allowing us to enjoy the peace of mind of a strong financial position. If only our biggest problems would never be worse than to figure out the best way to improve our parks!

I am thankful and proud to serve on a City Council that works like a team, with a staff that is professional, competent, and dedicated in carrying out our mission -- efficiently delivering vital services in a small-town, friendly style. We are a showcase of fundamental community values that work, and they seem a world apart from credit default swaps, derivatives, and high stakes gambits and bailouts.

Sure, the big picture seems so overwhelming -- but we are strong on the fundamentals. Let’s draw strength and confidence from the small things that work, and are within our power to control. I am thankful and proud to live in Bayport!

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Community Programs and Events

Free Foreclosure Prevention Counseling

Are you or someone you know facing foreclosure? The Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority provides free and confidential counseling services to homeowners who are in danger of losing their home. The counseling program offers the following services:



- Assessment of situation and assistance evaluating foreclosure solutions
- Counseling and information on the foreclosure process and timeline
- Negotiations with mortgage lenders
- Referrals to other community resources, including financial and credit counseling

Many foreclosures can be prevented, but individuals may not realize the longer they wait, the fewer options they will have to prevent foreclosure. Take advantage of this free program! For more information, contact 651-458-0936 or visit www.wchra.com

Activities at the Bayport Senior Center



Are you looking for an opportunity to get together with friends in your community? Are you looking to learn something new? The Senior Center offers a variety of ongoing creative and entertaining programs for senior citizens,

including card games, cooking demonstrations, guest speakers, musical entertainment, exercise classes, bingo sessions, and wellness education. For more information, contact the Bayport American Legion at 651-275-8907.

Adopt a Fire Hydrant Program

Help keep your family and neighbors safe by adopting a fire hydrant in your neighborhood this winter! During the winter months, fire hydrants often get buried beneath snow and ice, making them difficult for the fire department to locate and/or access in an emergency. By clearing snow and ice within three feet around the hydrant, residents can help ensure that their neighborhood hydrant will be easily accessible and ready for use, should a fire occur. The city appreciates your efforts in helping to keep our community safe!



Check Out the Free Resources Available at Your Library!

Especially in tough economic times, libraries are a great source for no-cost access to reading and reference materials, computers, and entertainment for the whole family. Did you know that the following materials and services are offered free at the Bayport Public Library?

- Books
- DVDs/video tapes
- Newspapers
- Playaways
- Magazines
- State and local tax forms
- Fax machine (for local use)
- Books on audio disc and tape
- Children's story hour
- Computers (including Internet)

Bayport residents are privileged to have a first-rate library right in their own backyard, so be sure to take advantage of these free resources! For more information, please call 651-275-4416 or visit www.bayportlibrary.org

Winter Fire Prevention Tips For Your Home

Heating equipment, especially portable space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves, require careful use and proper maintenance. Please keep in mind the following tips to help your family prevent fire and burn-related injuries during the winter months:

- Keep all persons, pets, and flammable objects at least three feet away from space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves to avoid contact burn injuries
- Be sure to open the fireplace flue before use
- Burn only seasoned hardwood, to maintain an even and controlled fire
- Use sturdy screens or doors to keep embers inside a fireplace
- Have a professional inspect chimneys annually for cracks, blockages, and leaks, and have them cleaned and repaired as needed
- Never use space heaters to dry clothing or blankets
- Turn off space heaters before leaving a room or going to sleep
- Purchase electric space heaters that bear the mark of an independent testing laboratory, such as UL, ETL, CSA, etc.
- Use kerosene heaters only where permitted by law, with the appropriate grade kerosene, and never use an alternative fuel



Cremaains Burial Area Now Available in Hazelwood Cemetery

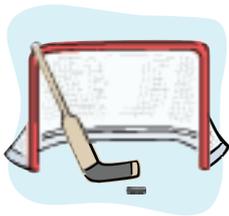
A cremaains burial area, located in the northwest corner of the cemetery, was established earlier this year. Priced at \$200.00, a cremaains gravesite offers an economical burial option for a single burial, compared to \$600.00 for a full, traditional gravesite. For more information contact City Hall at 651-275-4404 or visit the city's website at <http://bayport.govoffice.com>

Top 10 Things You Can Do This Winter in Bayport Without Spending a Dime (or Darn Close)!



10. Go ice fishing on the river
9. Take a hike at the St. Croix Savannah Natural Area
8. Organize a book club
7. Go sledding at Barker's Alps Park

6. Get involved in an intramural sports league
5. Go winter camping in your backyard
4. Go cross-county skiing on the river or in a park



3. Check out materials from the library
2. Organize a recipe or cookie exchange club
1. Go ice skating at Perro Park

Make the most of this winter season and enjoy what Bayport has to offer!

Save Some Green by Being Green & Energy Efficient!

Try incorporating some of these simple tips into your family's routine this winter and see green results, in more ways than one!

At home...

- Have your furnace cleaned and inspected to promote top performance
- Lower the heat setting on your thermostat when at work and asleep
- Keep fireplace flue damper tightly closed when not in use
- Add window film and caulk to drafty windows
- Take short showers instead of baths
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes
- Clean the lint filter in the dryer after every load to improve air circulation
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs

Around town...

- Pay bills in person or on-line to eliminate postage fees and paper invoices
- Keep vehicle tires inflated and aligned to improve gas mileage by 3.3%
- Combine errands into one trip to promote fuel efficiency
- Carpool with family, friends, or co-workers when possible
- Pack snacks and water in reusable containers, to reduce waste
- Avoid excess idling of your vehicle to help reduce air emissions
- Replace clogged air filters to improve vehicle gas mileage by up to 10%
- Avoid speeding, rapid acceleration, and hard braking to improve gas mileage
- Consider walking, biking, or skating as alternate modes of transportation



Visit www.energysavers.gov for more great energy-saving ideas and tips!

Police Department K-9 Unit Becomes A Reality!

The Bayport Police Department has reached their goal of securing funds to purchase a non-aggressive, narcotics certified canine (K-9) police dog! Donations to purchase the K-9 came solely from community members and businesses, which shows the commitment of the community to provide the highest quality of police services.

In addition to assisting officers with the detection of narcotics, the K-9 will be used for community events, as well as demonstrations at Croixdale Retirement Community and Andersen Elementary School. It will also be crossed trained to track human scent and used to assist other communities, as needed.

Bayport Police Officer Jay Jackson has been selected to serve as the K-9 handler. Officer Jackson has been with the Bayport Police Department for nine years and has received extensive, specialized training in narcotics. The K-9 is expected to arrive in early 2009.



Road Salt Shortage Anticipated

The city has been notified by Washington County, Bayport's road salt supplier, that there is a road salt shortage this year. As such, the city will only receive 50% of the salt requested to serve local streets. The Public Works Department will do its best to keep city streets as clear as possible, but residents are urged to slow down, use caution, and plan ahead when traveling this winter.

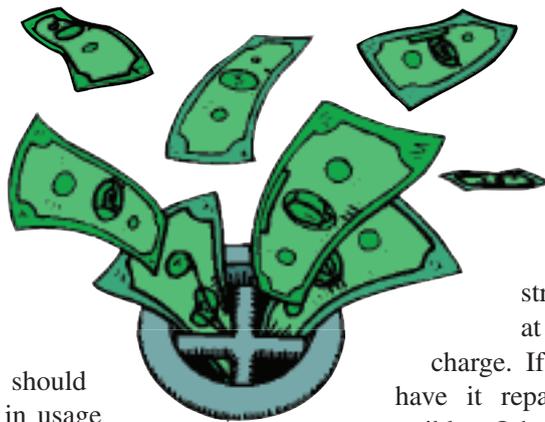


Do You Monitor Your Quarterly Utility Bill?

Many of us are trying to watch our bills and spend more carefully these days, and your city utility bill should be no exception. City staff was actually surprised to find out that many residents do not look at how much water they consume each quarter and just simply pay their bill. By simply taking a few minutes each quarter, you may be able to prevent unnecessary consumption and save money on your utility bill!

A typical utility bill should show a slight increase in usage during the spring and summer months, due to lawn irrigation, swimming pools, car washing, etc., but if normal usage continues to occur, the average family should not see a big increase in their utility bill throughout the year.

Residents may not realize that an unusual spike in their utility bill could be the sign of a leak in a household fixture or appliance, which would not only increase water consumption and the cost of the utility bill, but could also lead to water damage in the home. In most instances, the city can determine the cause of increased usage and offer a solution. However, if the increased usage goes unnoticed, customers could end up with a hefty bill!



The number one reason for an increase in water consumption is a leaky toilet. Often times the flapper valve in the toilet tank loses its ability to seal, allowing fresh water to leak into the toilet bowl. Typically this is a very slight leak, but measured over 90 days time, it can add up significantly. To help in the detection of a toilet leak, test strips are available at City Hall, free of charge. If a leak is detected, have it repaired as soon as possible. Other items that could contribute to an increase in water consumption are water conditioners, permanent furnace humidifiers, and lawn irrigation systems. Have these types of equipment inspected on a regular basis, to make sure they are working properly.

If you receive an unusually high utility bill and would like the city to review it, contact City Hall at 651-275-4404. The city is willing to assist residents who are having difficulty paying their utility bill, and may make special payment arrangements, if requested. However, residents should be advised not to disregard their utility bill and payment obligation because the city may shut off the water if the account is delinquent.

Update on City Hall Business Hours and City Website

In an effort to save on energy costs and better serve the community, the following business hours are now in effect for City Hall:



7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday – Thursday
Closed on Friday

During non-business hours, residents are encouraged to refer to the city's website, <http://bayport.govoffice.com>. Here, individuals can find answers to many frequently asked questions, as well as access the Bayport City Code of Ordinances and the City Council and Planning Commission agendas, meeting packets, and minutes. Residents can also sign up to receive periodic email updates and announcements that relate to city services.

In addition, the website provides quick and easy access to many frequently used application forms for park reservations, building permits, pet licenses, special events, and more. Going out of town? Residents can access a "Watch My Property" request form, to alert the Police Department to watch for suspicious activity.

We hope you will check out the website and take advantage of this convenient resource for city information!

